

## Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-11 /091 W

----- 006983

R 180959Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3946

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0202

E.O. 11652: XGDS(1)

TAGS: EFIS MR KS

SUBJ: ROK FISHERY INTEREST IN MAURITANIA

REF: SEOUL 810

1. SE JAI LEE, POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S (ROK) EMB IN PARIS (DOP PPT NO. DR 4938) VISITED REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE (RFA) FOLSOM AT CONGEN ON FEB 17, 76 UPON INSTRUCTION FROM SEOUL (REFTEL).

2. LEE CENTERED CONVERSATION ON WHAT RFA RECOMMENDED FOR 60-70 ROK FISHING VESSELS BASED IN LAS PALMAS WHO ARE NOW FACED WITH EVICTION FROM WATERS FORMERLY BELONGING TO SPAIN, BUT SOON TO BELONG TO MAURITANIA.

3. LEE QUESTIONED RFA ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF USING MOROCCO AS A PARTNER FOR ROK VESSELS WHICH WOULD THEN FISH OFF MAURITANIA UNDER MOROCCAN FLAG, THROUGH TREATIES NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED BY MOROCCAN NATIONALS. LEE NOTED THAT OFFICE NATIONAL DES  
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PECHES (ONP) DIRGEN LAYACHI DUE IN SEOUL ON FEB 23, 76.

4. LEE ALSO CLOSELY QUESTIONED RFA ON BRAHIM OULD DHERRAT. QUESTIONS CENTERED ON BRAHIM'S ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH ROK, HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS ROK AND DPRK, AND ABOUT THOSE AREAS WHERE BRAHIM MIGHT BE FAVORABLY INFLUENCED. SIMILAR QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF NEW FISHERIES HEAD IN NOUAKCHOTT.

5. LEE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT ROK, IN NEXT FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS, WOULD:

A. CONTINUE TO FISH OFF MAURITANIA UNDER PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS,

B. WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VESSELS FLYING FOREIGN FLAGS--PARTICULARLY MOROCCAN FLAG--TO FISH IN MAURITANIAN WATERS,

C. WOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO REACH DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENT WITH GIRM ON FISHERIES, AND

E. WOULD SOON TRANSFER MANY VESSELS INTO NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES UNTIL A LATER DATE.

6. LEE INDICATED HE HAD MET WITH MEMBER OF MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY IN LAS PALMAS (UNIDENTIFIED) AND BELIEVED SOME ACCOMODATION MIGHT EVENTUALLY SUCCEED. HE INDICATED JAPANESE SOURCE (UNIDENTIFIED) HAD TOLD HIM MAURITANIANS WOULD PERMIT ROK VESSELS TO FISH IN MARITANIAN WATERS FOR PAYMENT OF US\$200 PER TON (PRESUMABLY GRT, BUT POSSIBLY CATCH). HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MAURITANIAN CREWMEN PRESENTLY BEING TRAINED ON BOARD ROK VESSELS FISHING OFF MAURITANIA UNDER AGREEMENTS WORKED OUT EARLIER (PRESUMABLY THE ROK STERN TRAWLERS CARNATION NO. 51 AND 52.

7. LEE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC USAGE OF CURRENT SAHARAN CONFLICT TO IMPROVE ROK'S RELATIONS WITH GIRM. LEE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOITING DPRK'S SUPPORT (UNDOCUMENTED) OF ALGERIA AND/OR FRONT POLISARIO AGAINST MAURITANIAN FORCES TO OPEN WEDGE IN GIRM-DPRK TIES. LEE INDICATED ROK AMB IN RABAT MIGHT APPROACH MAURITANIAN DIPLOMATS  
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USING THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES IN MAURITANIAN-ALGERIAN RELATIOS, AS A MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE WITH THE HOPES THAT IT MIGHT LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ROK COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN MAURITANIA.

8. RFA INDICATED THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH ROK AMB IN RABAT SINCE RFA HAD NO QUALIFICATIONS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER. RFA INDICATED THAT AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT MIGHT WISH TO SPECULATE ON ISSUE AND THAT MISSION MIGHT NOTIFY DEPT OF ITS THOUGHTS, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SEOUL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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